

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

I claim:

1. (Currently amended) A method for using a computer system to hold a cooperative auction to effectuate an action related to a cause comprising, in sequence:

a) identifying a cause;

b) identifying an entity capable of performing an action related to the cause;

c) setting parameters for the cooperative auction, said parameters comprising

e) identifying a price for the action; and

e) specifying, via a computer system, a deadline for receiving pledges earmarked for the ~~cause~~action;

~~ed~~) receiving, via a computer system, before the deadline, a plurality of pledges of value units earmarked for the ~~cause~~action; and

~~fe~~) providing consideration to the entity in exchange for performance of the action, where the consideration comprises value units pledged in step ed.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of: entering an agreement with the entity, the agreement containing a condition such that, if the condition is met, the entity agrees to take the action.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the agreement is entered prior to receipt of pledges, and wherein the agreement specifies a time limitation related to payment of the price.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the time limitation comprises ~~the first~~ a deadline for receiving pledges.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the plurality of pledges are made by at least one bidder, and the at least one bidder may set an expiration time for his pledge.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the condition is that the total amount of pledges equals a predetermined price.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein a bidder's pledge results in a transfer of value units from the bidder if the condition is met prior to expiration of the pledge.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the entity is the holder of an intellectual property right, and the cause is the extinguishment of the intellectual property right.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the action is renunciation of said intellectual property right.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the extinguishment of the intellectual property right is effectuated by transferring the intellectual property right to a second entity, wherein the second entity has represented that it will not enforce the intellectual property right.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the intellectual property right is a copyright right.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the copyright right is the right of electronic distribution of a copyrighted work.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the copyright right is the right to reproduce a copyrighted work.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the copyright right is the right to make a derivative work of a copyrighted work.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the intellectual property right is a patent right.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the patent right is a license to manufacture a product for a particular purpose.

17. (Currently amended) A computer storage medium, encoded with a computer program for holding a cooperative auction to induce an entity to perform an action related to a cause, comprising~~providing~~:

- a) means for ~~identifying~~specifying a cause;
- b) means for identifying~~specifying~~ an entity capable of performing an action related to the cause;
- c) means for setting parameters for the cooperative auction, said parameters comprising:
 - ei) ~~means for identifying the identity of said entity~~;
 - ii) a price for the action; and
 - diii) ~~means for specifying, via a computer system, a deadline for receiving pledges earmarked for the cause~~action;
- ed) means for receiving, via a computer system, before the deadline, a plurality of pledges of value units earmarked for the ~~cause~~action; and
- fe) means for ending the cooperative auction when the price specified in c.ii is met
~~providing consideration to the entity in exchange for performance of the action, where the consideration comprises said pledged value units.~~

18. (Currently amended) A computer system for holding a cooperative auction to induce an entity to perform an action related to a cause, comprising:

- a) means for ~~identifying~~specifying a cause;

b) means for ~~identifying~~specifying an entity capable of performing an action related to the cause;

c) means for setting parameters for the cooperative auction, said parameters comprising:

ei) means for ~~identifying~~ the identity of said entity;

ii) a price for the action; and

diii) ~~means for specifying, via a computer system,~~ a deadline for receiving pledges earmarked for the ~~cause~~action;

ed) means for receiving, via a computer system, before the deadline, a plurality of pledges of value units earmarked for the ~~cause~~action; and

fe) means for ending the cooperative auction when the price specified in c.ii is met

~~providing consideration to the entity in exchange for performance of the action, where the consideration comprises said pledged value units.~~

19. (Currently amended) The system of claim 18, further comprising means for entering an agreement with the entity, the agreement containing a condition such that, if the condition is met, the entity agrees to take the action.

20. (Currently amended) The system of claim 19, wherein the entity is the holder of an intellectual property right, and the cause is the extinguishment of the intellectual property right.